

Amendment
Serial No. 10/531,721
Attorney Docket No. 052466

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the three original sheets of drawing by the replacement sheets which are identical but of good quality.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, three replacement sheets of drawings are submitted.

Further, claims 6-8 and 20-22 have been amended to delete the expressions introduced by “preferably”, and new claims 23-28 have been added for these clauses.

Also, claims 1 and 17 have been amended to replace “characterized in that” by “wherein,” claim 1 has also been amended to remove reference numeral (12a) on line 7, and claims 1-5 and 17 have been amended to remove reference letter (R).

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 6 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, Figs. 1 and 2 are objected to as lacking clarity.

Replacement sheets without smudge marks are submitted with this paper. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 6-8 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner objects to the expressions introduced by “preferably...” as unclear.

The expressions introduced by “preferably” have been deleted in claims 6-8 and 20-22, and new claims 23-28 have been added for these clauses. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

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In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 502759.

Respectfully submitted,

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